

# **BLOOD LEAD SCREENING**

## **NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LEAD TESTING GUIDELINES**

### **WHO NEEDS A BLOOD LEAD TEST?**

- ◆ All children ages 1 and 2 must be screened for elevated blood lead levels.
- ◆ All children ages 6 months to 72 months of age found to be at risk for high dose lead exposure must be screened.
- ◆ Children 36 to 72 months of age with a history of blood lead levels of  $\geq 15 \mu\text{g/dl}$  should receive follow-up blood lead testing annually.

### **WHO PERFORMS THE BLOOD LEAD TEST?**

- ◆ The blood is drawn at the child's doctor's office/blood lab. A small amount of blood is drawn from either a finger prick or a vein and tested for lead.
- ◆ The Monroe County Department of Health Lead Prevention Program will screen children if they do not have health insurance. Call (585) 274-6087 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

### **WHAT DOES YOUR CHILD'S BLOOD LEAD TEST RESULTS MEAN?**

#### **0-9 $\mu\text{g/dl}$**

Your child does not have lead poisoning. [Have your child re-tested according to the NYS requirements.](#)

#### **10-19 $\mu\text{g/dl}$**

Your child's blood lead level is mildly elevated. The Monroe County Department of Health will send a Community Health Worker to your home to advise you on how exposure can be reduced. You should look for sources of lead in your home and other places where your child spends time. Contact the Monroe County Health Department for advice on reducing lead paint hazards. [Your child should be tested again in 3-4 months.](#)

#### **20-44 $\mu\text{g/dl}$**

Your child's blood lead level is elevated. The doctor should do a complete evaluation of your child. The Monroe County Department of Health will send a Public Health Inspector to your home to identify lead paint hazards and to offer education on reducing your child's exposure. If lead paint hazards are identified, the homeowner is responsible for the lead hazard reduction. [Follow your doctor's advice for having your child re-tested.](#)

### **45-69 µg/dl**

Your child's blood lead level is seriously elevated. The doctor will begin treating your child immediately with chelating agents to help reduce the blood lead level. In most cases this requires a hospital stay. The Monroe County Department of Health will send a Public Health Inspector to your home to identify lead paint hazards and to offer education on reducing your child's exposure. If lead paint hazards are identified, the homeowner is responsible for the lead hazard reduction. [After treatment, follow your doctor's advice for having your child re-tested.](#)

### **More than 70 µg/dl**

Your child has a very dangerous medical condition that requires immediate attention. Your child will be referred to a hospital that provides chelation treatment to help reduce the blood lead level. The Monroe County Department of Health will send a Public Health Inspector to your home to identify lead paint hazards and to offer education on reducing your child's exposure. If lead paint hazards are identified, the homeowner is responsible for the lead hazard reduction. [After treatment, follow your doctor's advice for having your child re-tested.](#)